

EASTER

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BOTTOM LINE: THE EASTER STORY COMPELS A RESPONSE.

Day 1:

Read John 20:2-4

The resurrection of Jesus compels action. This is what we see with Mary, then with John and Peter. When Mary discovered that Jesus was alive, she had to run and tell; when John and Peter were told this by Mary, they had to go see for themselves. Today, what action is the resurrection compelling you toward? Are you drawn to tell someone, to investigate for yourself, or both? Take a moment to ask God to show you the faces of people in your life who need to hear about Jesus. Write those names down and then pray for each of them.

Day 2:

Read John 20:14-16

In this resurrection story, we see that Jesus calls Mary by name. In fact, she does not recognize who he is at first until he speaks her name. Have you ever stopped to consider that Jesus also calls you by name? And in order to call you by name, that means he knows your name. He knows you intimately, he created you. When we are called by our name, that uniquely grabs our attention and elicits a response from us. Mary's response was to cling to Jesus. How will you respond to Jesus calling your name? Take a moment to list some of the ways that you can respond to Jesus' call on your life. What does "clinging" to Jesus look like for you?

Day 3:**Read John 20:20-21**

The news of the resurrection is news that is too good to keep to yourself! In these couple verses, we see that Jesus tells his disciples to go and share about what they know to be the truth. That command is echoed throughout the four Gospels, and that command is for us too. The resurrection of Jesus compels us to go and share with others, much like what Mary did in verses 2-4. So, who will you tell? How can you spread of the gospel? Spend some time asking God to show you creative ways to share Him with others and then think of at least one person you can do that with. Maybe you can reach out to one of the people you prayed for in response to the Day 1 Devotional?

Day 4:**Read John 20:27-28**

Here we interact with one of the famous disciples in the gospel, Thomas. He's so famous that he has his own nickname, "Doubting Thomas". Thomas gets a bad rap because he needed a little more proof that Jesus truly was alive. However, we see that Jesus is compassionate with him in the midst of his doubts. Do you respond that same way to others when they express doubts that they may have? Are you patient with those who struggle to understand and believe? Are you patient and compassionate with yourself when you struggle? How might you show the same compassion as Jesus this week? During this unique season of constantly being in the house with family, everyone's patience and compassion is being tested. Today, when you are challenging in this area, choose to pause and ask God for strength to show his love and grace to others.

Day 5:**Read John 20:30-31**

This is the emphatic point of the entire chapter, in fact, for the entire Gospel of John. Scholars consider this passage to be the mission statement of this Gospel. And this mission statement compels a response. Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? If you do, then this belief compels you to give your life to him. Jesus calls us to follow him, he is our Lord. Are you following him as Lord? He is worthy of nothing less than your all. Be honest with yourself and reflect on the areas of your life that you have yet to surrender to Christ. God wants to give you his best, but he won't force his way in, so open up every area and give him control. A practical way to do this is by making a list of the areas that you are still holding on to, then open up your hands and tell God that they are all now his!